

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, MILI, PINT, RP, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

1. INCIDENT AT PHIL CENTER IN NYC - UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR MURPHY MET WITH ROMULO JUNE 27 AND DELIVERED (A) THE NY CITY POLICY REPORT AND (B) THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE WHICH INTER ALIA ASKED ROMULO TO CONVEY OUR REGRET TO MARCOS, AND APOLOGIZED FOR THE INADVERTENT AND TEMPORARY DETENTION OF A PHILIPPINE EMBASSY EMPLOYEE. ROMULO SAID THE MESSAGE WOULD BE "VERY HELPFUL" BUT DID NOT ACQUIESCE IN MURPHY'S SUGGESTION FOR A DELAY IN THE UN HOST COUNTRY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 28. (SUBSEQUENTLY WE LEARNED THAT, OWING TO OTHER BUSINESS, THE COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO JUNE 29.) MURPHY IS SEEKING AN URGENT MEETING WITH MARCOS TO SAY THAT WE HAVE DONE THE BEST WE CAN, OFFER TO MAKE THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

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PUBLIC, AND ASK MARCOS' VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO BRING THE MATTER TO A CLOSE. IN NEW YORK A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE IS BEING GIVEN PHILIPPINE ACTING PERMREP YANGO, WHO WILL BE REMINDED OF THE INACCURACIES IN ROMULO'S MOST RECENT ALLEGATIONS THAT POLICE SHOULD RECOGNIZE DIPLOMATIC CHARACTER OF CENTER BY ITS FLAGS (NOT UP AT MIDNIGHT) AND PLAQUE (WHICH DOES NOT MENTION ANY OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICES THEREIN). L AND IO ARE DOING A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO THE POLICE COMMISSIONER EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR

COOPERATION.

2. MEETING WITH MACAPANTON ABBAS (CONFIDENTIAL)

MACAPANTON ABBAS, FORMER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ALEX MELCHOR AND CURRENTLY A PROFESSOR AT ABDUL AZIZ UNIVERSITY IN JIDDA, MET WITH CAROLYN CHRISTIAN JUNE 26. (PETER SCHAEFER EARLIER THIS SPRING PASSED TO BOB OAKLEY AND BEN FLECK ABBAS' REQUEST FOR OBRANDING U.S. NIV FOR THIS VISIT, AT THAT TIME DESCRIBED AS ENTIRELY PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH HIS FAMILY.) ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED TO BE ON ANNUAL UNIVERSITY-PAID VACATION, ABBAS DID SAY THAT HE QUOTE HAD BEEN SENT UNQUOTE TO MEASURE RECEPTIVITY OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES TO HIS PLEAS FOR U.S. BEHIND-THE-SCENES PRESSURE ON MARCOS TO END MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. ABBAS DID NOT DIRECTLY ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH HASHIM SELAMAT'S FACTION BUT DID SAY THE GROUP WHO SUGGESTED HIS ACTIVITIES HERE HAS THE BACKING OF THE ISLAMIC LEAGUE, WHICH, AGAIN ACCORDING TO HIM, NUR MISUARI HAS NOW LOST.

ABBAS SAID THAT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA HAVE NOW BEGUN QUIETLY TO PRESSURE MARCOS TO MOVE TO END THE CURRENT

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SITUATION BECAUSE THEY ARE WORRIED OF THE POSSIBLE RADICALIZATION OF REFUGEES IN SABAH IF THEY CONTINUE IN CAMPS THERE. ABBAS SAID HIS PEOPLE SHARE THE SAUDI/MALAYSIAN/INDONESIAN CONCERNS OF USSR/LIBYA/MISUARI INFLUENCE.

ABBAS MAINTAINED HIS PEOPLE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE U.S. BASES AND ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT THEY ARE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM EXTERNAL FORCES. THEY DO NOT SEE, HOWEVER, HOW THE U.S. CAN EXPRESS CONCERN FOR POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN THE CHRISTIAN AREAS WHILE IGNORING QUOTE COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF THE AFP'S AND PC'S USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED PLANES, SHIPS, TANKS, NAPALM (SIC), AND GUNS AGAINST FARMERS AND OTHER MUSLIM CIVILIANS IN THE SOUTH UNQUOTE.

ABBAS SAID HE HAD ALREADY MET WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE ON THE HILL, WHOM HE DID NOT SPECIFY, AND HOPED TO SEE A FEW MORE BEFORE HE RETURNS TO JIDDA. HE DOES NOT PLAN TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH ANYONE ELSE IN DEPARTMENT.

COMMENT: ABBAS IS ARTICULATE AND EARNEST, THOUGH SOFT-SPOKEN, AND PRESENTS HIS CASE WELL. HE MAY DO WELL ON THE HILL.

3. SINGAPORE AND U.K. USE OF CLARK AIR BASE (SECRET)

WE ARE ABOUT TO INFORM SINGAPORE THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION
TO THEIR CONCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PHILIPPINES
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF CLARK AIR BASE FOR A-4 TRAINING.
AT OUR REQUEST SINGAPORE HAS HELD OFF FOR TWO YEARS ON
GOING AHEAD WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AWAITING A LESS SENSITIVE
TIME IN THE MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

COINCIDENTLY, WE ALSO HAVE A BRITISH REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SUPPORT FOR LIMITED AIR OPERATIONS FROM CLARK. AFTER

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CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY MANILA, WE EXPECT TO HAVE AIR FORCE ADVISE THEM THAT WE CAN HANDLE THE SUPPORT OPERATIONALLY IF THE GOP GIVES ITS CONSENT.

4. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES AT THE BASES
(SECRET)

WE HAVE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED USG AGENCIES A LISTING OF COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES AT THE BASES. OUR INQUIRY WAS A RESULT OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE GOP WITH REGARD TO THE STATE REGIONAL RELAY FACILITY AT CLARK DURING THE BASE DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS REGARDING VOA OPERATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF PHILIPPINE CONCERN THAT WE MIGHT BE MONITORING THEM FROM OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. WE INTEND TO FORWARD ALL OF THIS INFORMATION TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY SO THAT HE WILL HAVE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE MORE THAN DOLS 500 MILLION IN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT THE BASES. WE WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH THE INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT WE CAN SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND HOPEFULLY DEFLECT SOME OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES WHICH ARISE FROM THESE OPERATIONS.

5. MUNITIONS CONTROL CASES (CONFIDENTIAL)

PROCESSING OF VARIOUS MILITARY SALES CASES INCLUDING PATROL BOATS, ARMORED INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES AND SMALL ARMS MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT CONTINUES TO BE DELAYED ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS. FOLLOWING EA'S EFFORTS TO BREAK THESE AND OTHER CASES LOOSE THROUGH AN APPEAL TO MRS. BENSON WHICH RESULTED IN A HEARING JUNE 12 THE ISSUE WAS REFERRED TO THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE FOR

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DECISION AT A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 7. IN THE MEANTIME THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HAS PRESENTED A NOTE REQUESTING FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE SMALL ARMS MANUFACTURING CASE DUE TO URGENT NEED AS PART OF THEIR SELF-RELIANCE

PROGRAM. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT RECENT DENIAL

OF SALE OF A COMPUTER TO THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY FOR PROCESSING FINGERPRINTS IS BEING APPEALED BY THE MANUFACTURER WHO HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR A SIMILAR SALE TO BRAZIL.

6. CONGRESSIONAL FOLLOW-UPS (UNCLASSIFIED)

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT RELEASES OF AND DROPPING OF CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS WHOSE CASES HAVE GENERATED A GOOD DEAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS-ORIENTED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, WE ARE SENDING OUT FOLLOW-UPS TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES RANGING BACK TO EARLY 1977. THE NEWS OF ANTONIO NEPOMUCENO'S TEMPORARY RELEASE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SENATORS HUMPHREY, JAVITS, AND ANDERSON, AND TO CONGRESSMEN FRASER, QUIE, VENTO, WALSH, PEPPER, FREY, AND NOLAN. SENATOR CRANSTON IS BEING SENT ONE LETTER WITH NEWS OF CARMELITO TATLONGHARI'S INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY-MARCH TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES UPDATE, NELIA SANCHO'S RELEASE, AND THE DROPPING OF CHARGES AGAINST THE APRIL 9 DEMONSTRATORS AND THE RELEASE OF THE LAST SIX HELD ON THOSE CHARGES. SENATORS HEINZ, SCHWEIKER, AND MOYNIHAN WILL BE NOTIFIED AS FIRM NEWS OF DR. ROGER POSADAS (ABOUT WHOSE POSSIBLE AMNESTY THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CONFLICTING PRESS REPORTS) IS RECEIVED. WE PLAN TO KEEP SENATOR RIBICOFF, WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN THE CASE OF AMCIT MARYKNOLL FATHER JACK (JOHN D.) WALSH, INFORMED AS THE EMBASSY PROVIDES US ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE PRESS-REPORTED DROPPING OF CHARGES JUNE 16 AGAINST WALSH AND 3 OTHER AMERICANS. COPIES OF OUR LETTERS ARE AS USUAL BEING SENT TO MANILA.

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7. HUMAN RIGHTS: OPIC AND IFC CASES (CONFIDENTIAL)

FOLLOWING A MEETING LAST FRIDAY (JUNE 23) BETWEEN ACTING OPIC PRESIDENT POATS AND CHRISTOPHER, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY APPROVED PHELPS DODGE'S APPLICATION FOR OPIC'S GUARANTEES, BUT DID NOT MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON OPIC'S PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING GUARANTEE APPLICATIONS ON A GLOBAL BASIS. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (JUNE 26), THE DEPUTY SECRETARY DECIDED THAT THE USG SHOULD ABSTAIN ON THE IFC CEBU SHIPYARD LOAN. THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE WILL TAKE UP HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES JULY 7. EA HAS PREPARED A PAPER RECOMMENDING THAT, BECAUSE OF RECENT GOP ACTIONS IN LIBERATING DETAINEES, DEALING WITH THE OPPOSITION, ETC., WE SHOULD SEND SOME POSITION SIGNALS; HA'S MEMO DISAGREES.

8. ENERGY TEAM (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IN LIGHT OF GOP ENERGY MINISTER VELASCO'S PREFERENCE FOR

A LATE SUMMER MEETING AND THE SCRAPPING OF A PROPOSED ASEAN ENERGY MEETING IN MANILA BEFORE THE WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL, STATE, DOE AND AID HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE SENDING A CONSULTATIVE ENERGY TEAM UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE. THE FIELD HAS NOT BEEN ADVISED OF A PROPOSED RESCHEDULING WHICH WOULD PUT THE TEAM IN MANILA SEPTEMBER 7-8, FOLLOWED BY VISITS TO BANGKOK AND JAKARTA. LATER THIS SUMMER WE WILL ASK EMBASSY MANILA FOR AN UPDATE ON GOP THINKING, WHICH BY THEN MAY HAVE COME INTO CLEARER AND MORE SPECIFIC FOCUS REGARDING AREAS OF INTEREST FOR POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTANCE.

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9. MTN NEGOTIATIONS (SECRET)

AFTER SEVERAL POSTPONEMENTS (AT GOP INSTIGATION), THE SECOND ROUND OF U.S./RP MTN NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD IN GENEVA JUNE 8, 13 AND 14. EB CHARACTERIZES THE SESSIONS AS "MORE OF THE SAME," INDICATING NO REAL PHILIPPINE MOVEMENT TOWARD MEETING OUR OFFER, AND SHOWING LESS PROGRESS THAN ANY OTHER LDC WITH WHOM WE ARE CARRYING ON ACTIVE MTN DISCUSSIONS. ONE BRIGHT SPOT: U.S. TALKS ARE GOING WELL WITH SOUTH KOREA, WHICH AS THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF PHILIPPINE MAHOGANY PLYWOOD TO THE U.S. WILL FACILITATE MORE FAVORABLE TARIFF TREATMENT FOR THE PHILIPPINE-PRODUCED PRODUCT. AFTER COCONUT OIL, THIS WOULD BE THE MAIN BENEFIT ACCRUING TO MANILA FROM A SUCCESSFUL MTN BILATERAL.

OUR MTN DELEGATION IN GENEVA IS PESSIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUDING THE PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATIONS. WE SHARE GENEVA'S ASSESSMENT, BASED ON A REVIEW OF THE LAST AVAILABLE SENSITIVE-SOURCE REPORTING ON HOW FAR MANILA IS WILLING TO GO IN MAKING TARIFF CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT U.S. OFFER. THE NEXT FORMAL U.S./RP NEGOTIATING SESSIONS IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 6.

10. CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

U.S./RP CIVIL AVIATION TALKS OPENED YESTERDAY (JUNE 26) IN THE DEPARTMENT ON A MODERATELY UPBEAT TONE. THE U.S. TEAM, CHAIRED BY BOB BROWN OF AV, INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER GRANTING RIGHTS TO GUAM, LOS ANGELES (MANILA'S KEY CIVAIR OBJECTIVE IN RECENT YEARS) AS WELL WAS BEYOND TO VANCOUVER. IN RETURN FOR OUR MAJOR L.A. CONCESSION, WE ASKED FOR FULL TRAFFIC (PREVIOUSLY ONLY BLIND SECTOR) RIGHTS FROM AND TO MANILA FOR THAILAND, SINGAPORE,

MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, TAIWAN (SERVICED BY PANAM, NORTHWEST,
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FLYING TIGERS) AND PALAU (AIR MICRONESIA). WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT U.S. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION POLICY, WE INDICATED THAT SUCH NEW AND EXISTING RIGHTS COULD NOT CARRY RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING FREQUENCY/CAPACITY. IT WAS OUR REPEATED POSITION THAT U.S. COULD AND WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE ON THE GOP'S REQUEST FOR TOKYO-U.S. RIGHTS.

TODAY'S PHILIPPINE COUNTERPROPOSAL SUGGESTED AN ITERM REGIME DURING WHICH THE U.S. WOULD AGREE TO FREQUENCY/ CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS BUT OBTAIN -ERTAIN (BUT NOT ALL) OF OUR FULL TRAFFIC REQUESTS, WHILE PAL UTILIZED TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO GUAM AND L.A. AT THE END OF 1982, WHEN PAL RECEIVED DELIVERY ON 747'S AND BECAME MORE COMPETITIVE IN CAPACITY WITH U.S. CARRIERS, ALL RESTRICTIONS ON FRE- QUENCY/CAPACITY WOULD BE DROPPED, AND PRESUMABLY ALL OF OUR FULL TRAFFIC REQUESTS GRANTED.

NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY, AFTER THE U.S. SIDE HAS HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THE GOP PROPOSAL AND PREPARE A FIRST DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS THE BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

11. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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